

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W

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R 211700Z NOV 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1300

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0559

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: NOV 20 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. AT THE EIGHTY-FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, FRG REP BEHREND'S DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. IT DEALT IN A GENERAL WAY WITH THE NEED FOR AN EXCHANGE OF DATA. THE MAIN POINTS OF BEHREND'S PRESENTATION WERE:

A. A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASIC FACTS OF THE FORCE RELATIONSHIP IN CENTRAL EUROPE IS ESSENTIAL FOR PROGRESS IN THESE TALKS.

B. WITHOUT SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING NEITHER SIDE COULD FULLY ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS OF REDUCTIONS PROPOSALS OR BE EXPECTED TO REACH DECISIONS ON REDUCTIONS.

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C. MOREOVER, PARTICIPANTS AGREE THAT REDUCTIONS COMMITMENTS WILL NEED TO BE MEASURED AND EXPRESSED NUMERICALLY.

D. THE WEST PRESENTED FIGURES ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND TANKS FOR BOTH SIDES IN NOVEMBER 1973 AND SUBSEQUENTLY OFFERED TO EXCHANGE DATA ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER.

E. INSTEAD OF RESPONDING TO REPEATED INVITATIONS TO ENTER INTO A DISCUSSION OF DATA, EASTERN PARTICIPANTS HAVE SO FAR ONLY CHALLENGED WESTERN FIGURES, BUT WITHOUT PRODUCING ANY FIGURES OF THEIR OWN.

F. TO POSTPONE A DATA EXCHANGE UNTIL AFTER MAJOR QUESTIONS OR PRINCIPLE HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, AS THE EAST HAS PROPOSED, APPEARS TO SET AN UNREASONABLE PRECONDITION.

G. THE WEST BELIEVES THAT A DATA DISCUSSION NOW WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES AND SHOULD NOT BE MADE DEPENDENT ON PROGRESS IN ANY OTHER AREA.

H. WITHOUT DATA THE ALLIES CANNOT EVEN KNOW THE NUMERICAL IMPLICATIONS OF EASTERN REDUCTION PROPOSALS AND, THEREFORE, CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO UNDERTAKE IMPORTANT PRIOR COMMITMENTS.

I. A DATA DISCUSSION WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED SERIOUSLY, WHILE HELPING TO ENHANCE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

J. SINCE SUCH A DISCUSSION WILL PROBABLY BE A TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS, AND SINCE BOTH SIDES WANT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE ALLIES BELIEVE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BEGIN TO DISCUSS DATA NOW.

K. AN EXCHANGE OF DATA COULD BE DONE IN PARALLEL WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF OTHER TOPICS AND WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE REDUCTION PROGRAMS OF EITHER SIDE.

L. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HOPE THE EAST WILL AGREE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIED PROPOSALS TO DISCUSS DATA NOW, SINCE THIS WOULD BE EQUALLY IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO OVERALL PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE FULL TEXT OF THE FRG STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.RESOR

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